

Immaculate Parish Renovation Committee
Minutes – April 25, 2019

Members Present: Br. Martin, Fr. John, Matt Gray, Lisa Prendergast, Bill Weikel, John Castlen, Rick Ebelhar, Steven Weaver, Sarah Ford, Lisa Sims, Julie Renshaw, Dot Reid.

Meeting Opened with the Renovation Prayer.

Agenda

- Meeting with the Diocese
- Open Parish Council Mtg
- Response of the Renovations Committee
- Questions Concerning Sources Used for Education
- Education Series for Parish At Large
- Architect Selection Process

Meeting with the Diocese

- Matt and Fr. John reported that on April 10th, they met with Fr. Brandon Williams, Coordinator of the Office of Worship, who is the initial diocesan contact regarding Church renovation. Fr. Brandon appreciated the preliminary renovation document and welcomed the establishment of communication between Immaculate Parish and diocese.
- Fr. Williams offered a few very basic observations about our document but expressed that he would not need to make specific comments until some drawings are produced.

Open Parish Council Meeting

- In March, the regularly scheduled open parish council meeting took place. At the meeting 16 parishioners were in attendance and spoke freely of their concerns about the renovation project.
- The concerns were not regarding the renovation documents (as they have not been released to the parish at large), but those in attendance said their concerns came from the parish council minutes from January and February meetings. (Please see the March Parish Council Minutes for details)
- Four members of the renovation committee were present at the open meeting and reported back their observations; in addition, a member of our cmte took notes to bring back as much verbatim detail as possible from the parishioner comments to discuss within the renovations committee.

-Response of the Renovation Committee

- The committee was provided with a paper with 28 separate comments listed that were made at the open Parish Council Meeting, all of which were about the placement of the tabernacle at Immaculate. (no other part of the document was referenced)
- The committee read the statements and were asked to discuss and comment. The majority of our 2 hour meeting tonight was spent discussing the concerns.
- The committee took all of the concerns seriously and are pledged to remain faithful to Catholic tradition and orthodox practice regarding the placement of the tabernacle in the church.
- The committee also acknowledged that many more of the comments were based on opinion, which is to be expected in a project of this scale.
- The committee unanimously agreed that we will remain committed to listening to parishioner comments and allow people to speak freely moving forward. The committee holds fast to the faith and to the belief that its members, guided by the teachings of the Church along with prayer and reflection, do not act alone; but under the guidance of the Holy Spirit who moves among the entire parish.
- The comments came unexpectedly to the renovation committee, as we have only presented the preliminary document of ideas to the parish council and not the parish, at large. Therefore, the consensus on the discussion of the comments, was that parishioners with concerns, in their own words “are filling the void” of information up to this point (not just at the open parish council meeting but also personally to Fr. John and Matt Gray). We have heard the concerns and taken them seriously and we want to ensure proper education to the whole parish when the time comes to do so.
- Educational meetings will be provided for the parishioners. With so many parishioners being away during the summer months; the educational meetings will be scheduled for this Fall 2019. Plans and Drawings will be provided to the parish.
- The renovation committee wanted to make sure that the parish understands the following:

1. Renovation Committee meeting minutes are posted on the parish website
 2. Educational materials have been published in our parish bulletin throughout the entire process
 3. More in-depth education/information is yet to come.
 4. The committee has not drafted a final document on the renovation, nor made any final decisions.
 5. There are no plans or drawings, at this time.
 6. Concerning the placement of the tabernacle: We invite those concerned to read the General Instruction of the Roman Missal states –No. 315.
- At this point in the process, the renovation committee will continue to examine the options outlined in this article of the General Instruction. With due diligence, we will examine the options which are available and study which of these options will best be suited to the project as it unfolds and develops.

Questions Concerning Sources Used

- Matt expressed that not only at the parish council meeting, but also in other committees, and in some personal correspondence between Fr. John and some parishioners, questions have been raised concerning the credibility of the sources used for this committee; in particular, “Built of Living Stones.” Several notes to be made on this subject:
 1. “Built of Living Stones” was a replacement document for the first post-Vatican Council II document on architecture in the U.S., “Art and Environment in Catholic Worship.” This original document was replaced because it was not voted on by the entire Bishops’ Conference, but only a small committee drafted and published that original document. The US Bishops desired to draft a new document that would garner a supportive vote from the entire Conference of Bishops; and that was “Built of Living Stones.”
 2. It also must be noted that “Built of Living Stones” does not stand on it’s own. From the document’s credits: “Over the course of four years of study, drafting and consultation, more than one thousand persons, including several hundred bishops assisted in the revision of the document.”
 3. The following official documents were used in the assembly of this document:
 - General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 2002 (Vatican Document)
 - Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2000 (Libreria Editrice Vaticana)
 - Code of Canon Law, Latin-English Edition, 1998
 - The Documents of Vatican II, 1966
 - Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist of Outside of Mass, 1974 (ICEL)
 - Rite of Penance, 1974 (ICEL)
 - Dedication of a Church and Altar, 1978(ICEL)
 - Doctrina et Exemplo, Eucharisticum Mysterium, Laudis Canticum, Mysterium Fidei, and Opera Artis, from “Documents on the Liturgy, 1963-1979
 - Plus 5 more sources
- Br. Martin explained that all official documents concerning church architecture are all in agreement with one another; There is no contradiction among any of them.

Education Series for the Parish at Large

- Moving forward, now is the time to begin an educational/informational process for the parish. The recommended format is a series of lecture meetings (3-4) presented by Brother Martin that will contain all of the educational information that the committee studied to get to this point. The series will utilize lecture, pictures, and an opportunity for questions and answers. The entire parish will be invited to attend. It was decided to plan for these in the fall when school is back in session and everyone has returned from summer travel/activities.

Architect Selection

- At the next meeting, we will review information on at least 5 architectural firms and select 3 to invite to give presentations.
- The main prerequisite for consideration will be that the firms we discuss must have some Catholic church experience. Br. Martin has a list of those he has worked with before, and Matt has a list provided by the diocese.
- Architects also need to have at least a ballpark figure of projected money to be raised for the project to make their presentations. We will also confirm our recommended figure next meeting.

Other Items

- Money – of course a project of this scale must be funded through a capital campaign, not with regular parish operation money. And the diocese also has requirements in the financial process. More discussion about this later.

Future Meetings

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 6PM